

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A polypropylene tape fiber, wherein said fiber comprises in excess of 2000 ppm up to 5000 ppm of a nucleator compound and wherein said fiber exhibits a tensile strength of at least 3 grams/denier and a shrinkage at 150 degrees Centigrade of less than about 4 percent.
2. (Currently amended) The polypropylene fiber of Claim 1 wherein said nucleator compound is selected from the group consisting of p-MDBS, 3,4-DMDBS, 2,4,5-TMDBS, DBS, ~~sodium benzoate, NA-11, NA-21,~~ sodium phosphate salts, lithium phosphate salts, sodium 2,2'-methylene-bis-(4,6-di-tert-butylphenyl)phosphate, disodium [2.2.1]heptane bicyclodicarboxylate, and any mixtures thereof.
3. (Original) The polypropylene fiber of Claim 2 wherein said nucleating agent is p-MDBS.
4. (Original) A fabric article comprising at least one polypropylene fiber as defined in Claim 1.
5. (Original) A fabric article comprising at least one polypropylene fiber as defined in Claim 2.

6. (Original) A fabric article comprising at least one polypropylene fiber as defined in Claim 3.
7. (Original) The fabric article of Claim 4 wherein said article is a carpet backing.
8. (Original) The fabric article of Claim 5 wherein said article is a carpet backing.
9. (Original) The fabric article of Claim 6 wherein said article is a carpet backing.
10. (Withdrawn) A polypropylene tape fiber, wherein said fiber comprises in excess of 2000 ppm up to 5000 ppm of a nucleator compound, wherein said fiber exhibits a shrinkage rate after exposure to 150°C hot air of less than 4%, and wherein said fiber exhibits a tensile strength of greater than 2.5 grams/denier.
11. (Withdrawn) The polypropylene fiber of Claim 10 wherein said nucleator compound is selected from the group consisting of p-MDBS, 3,4-DMDBS, 2,4,5-TMDBS, DBS, sodium benzoate, NA-11, NA-21, and any mixtures thereof.
12. (Withdrawn) The polypropylene fiber of Claim 11 wherein said nucleator compound is p-MDBS.

13. (Withdrawn) A fabric article comprising at least one polypropylene fiber as defined in Claim 10.

14. (Withdrawn) A fabric article comprising at least one polypropylene fiber as defined in Claim 11.

15. (Withdrawn) A fabric article comprising at least one polypropylene fiber as defined in Claim 12.

16. (Withdrawn) The fabric article of Claim 13 wherein said article is a carpet backing.

17. (Withdrawn) The fabric article of Claim 14 wherein said article is a carpet backing.

18. (Withdrawn) The fabric article of Claim 15 wherein said article is a carpet backing.

19. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 2 wherein said nucleator compound comprises 3,4-DMDBS.

20. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 2 wherein said nucleator compound comprises 2,4,5-TMDBS.

21. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 2 wherein said nucleator compound comprises DBS.

22. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 2 wherein said nucleator compound comprises sodium benzoate.

23. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 2 wherein said nucleator compound comprises at least one sodium phosphate salt.

24. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 2 wherein said nucleator compound comprises at least one lithium phosphate salt.

25. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 2 wherein said nucleator compound comprises sodium 2,2'-methylene-bis-(4,6-di-tert-butylphenyl)phosphate.

26. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 2 wherein said nucleator compound comprises disodium [2.2.1]heptane bicyclodicarboxylate.

27. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of claim 1, wherein said fiber provides a 3% secant modulus of greater than about 24 g/den.

28. (New) A polypropylene tape fiber, wherein said fiber comprises between about 2000 ppm and about 5000 ppm of a nucleator compound and wherein said fiber exhibits a 3% secant modulus of greater than about 24 g/den.

29. (New) The polypropylene fiber of Claim 28 wherein said nucleator compound is selected from the group consisting of p-MDBS, 3,4-DMDBS, 2,4,5-TMDBS, DBS, sodium phosphate salts, lithium phosphate salts, sodium 2,2'-methylene-bis-(4,6-di-tert-butylphenyl)phosphate, disodium [2.2.1]heptane bicyclodicarboxylate, and any mixtures thereof.

30. (New) The polypropylene fiber of Claim 29 wherein said nucleating agent is p-MDBS.

31. (New) A fabric article comprising at least one polypropylene fiber as defined in claim 28.

32. (New) A fabric article comprising at least one polypropylene fiber as defined in claim 29.

33. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 29 wherein said nucleator compound comprises 3,4-DMDBS.

34. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 29 wherein said nucleator compound comprises 2,4,5-TMDBS.
35. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 29 wherein said nucleator compound comprises DBS.
36. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 28 wherein said nucleator compound comprises sodium benzoate.
37. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 29 wherein said nucleator compound comprises at least one sodium phosphate salt.
38. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 29 wherein said nucleator compound comprises at least one lithium phosphate salt.
39. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 29 wherein said nucleator compound comprises sodium 2,2'-methylene-bis-(4,6-di-tert-butylphenyl)phosphate.
40. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 29 wherein said nucleator compound comprises disodium [2.2.1]heptane bicyclodicarboxylate.

41. (New) A polypropylene tape fiber, wherein said fiber comprises between about 2000 ppm and about 5000 ppm of a nucleator compound and wherein said fiber exhibits a 150 degree C shrinkage of less than about 4% wherein said fiber exhibits a 3% secant modulus of greater than about 24 g/den.

42. (New) The polypropylene fiber of Claim 41 wherein said nucleator compound is selected from the group consisting of p-MDBS, 3,4-DMDBS, 2,4,5-TMDBS, DBS, , sodium phosphate salts, lithium phosphate salts, sodium 2,2'-methylene-bis-(4,6-di-tert-butylphenyl)phosphate, disodium [2.2.1]heptane bicyclodicarboxylate, and any mixtures thereof.

43. (New) The polypropylene fiber of Claim 42 wherein said nucleating agent is p-MDBS.

44. (New) A fabric article comprising at least one polypropylene fiber as defined in Claim 41.

45 (New) A fabric article comprising at least one polypropylene fiber as defined in Claim 42.

46. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 42 wherein said nucleator compound comprises 3,4-DMDBS.

47. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 42 wherein said nucleator compound comprises 2,4,5-TMDBS.

48. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 42 wherein said nucleator compound comprises DBS.

49. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 41 wherein said nucleator compound comprises sodium benzoate.

50. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 42 wherein said nucleator compound comprises at least one sodium phosphate salt.

51. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 42 wherein said nucleator compound comprises at least one lithium phosphate salt.

52. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 42 wherein said nucleator compound comprises sodium 2,2'-methylene-bis-(4,6-di-tert-butylphenyl)phosphate.

53. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 42 wherein said nucleator compound comprises disodium [2.2.1]heptane bicyclodicarboxylate.

54. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of claim 42 wherein said nucleator compound is a blend of one or more of those provided in the group of claim 42.

55. (New) A polypropylene tape fiber, wherein said fiber comprises between about 2000 ppm and about 5000 ppm of a nucleator compound, said fiber exhibiting a tenacity of greater than about 2.5 gmf/den and a 3% secant modulus of greater than about 24 g/den.

56. (New) The polypropylene fiber of Claim 55 wherein said nucleator compound is selected from the group consisting of p-MDBS, 3,4-DMDBS, 2,4,5-TMDBS, DBS, , sodium phosphate salts, lithium phosphate salts, sodium 2,2'-methylene-bis-(4,6-di-tert-butylphenyl)phosphate, disodium [2.2.1]heptane bicyclodicarboxylate, and any mixtures thereof.

57. (New) The polypropylene fiber of Claim 56 wherein said nucleating agent is p-MDBS.

58. (New) A fabric article comprising at least one polypropylene fiber as defined in Claim 55.

59 (New) A fabric article comprising at least one polypropylene fiber as defined in Claim 56.

60. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 56 wherein said nucleator compound comprises 3,4-DMDBS.

61. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 56 wherein said nucleator compound comprises 2,4,5-TMDBS.

62. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 56 wherein said nucleator compound comprises DBS.

63. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 55 wherein said nucleator compound comprises sodium benzoate.

64. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 56 wherein said nucleator compound comprises at least one sodium phosphate salt.

65. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 56 wherein said nucleator compound comprises at least one lithium phosphate salt.

66. (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 56 wherein said nucleator compound comprises sodium 2,2'-methylene-bis-(4,6-di-tert-butylphenyl)phosphate.

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67 (New) The polypropylene tape fiber of Claim 56 wherein said nucleator compound comprises disodium [2.2.1]heptane bicyclodicarboxylate.